



Congressman Paul E. Gillmor

THE GILLMOR BULLETIN

March 2004

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Gillmor Washington Update

As your Representative in Congress, I am proud to represent Ohio's Fifth Congressional District here in Washington, DC.

In order to keep the citizens of the Fifth District better informed and up to date on my activities in Washington, DC and back home in Ohio, I have published this first edition of my monthly newsletter. It is my goal to provide you with the information you need to stay informed on the issues important to Ohio. In this edition of my Monthly Update I have focused on the important events that have taken place during the first three months of 2004. I hope that you will find this information beneficial. Please contact me should you have any questions or comments.

Broadcast Indecency: Congress Will Not Accept "Wardrobe Malfunctions"



Congressman Gillmor's Energy and Commerce Committee Held Hearings on Broadcast Indecency

Along with a large number of other Fifth District residents, I was disgusted with what I witnessed during the halftime show of Super Bowl XXXVIII and am happy that as a Member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, I am in the position to help see that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) does

more to guarantee that during the hours when American children are likely to tune in to broadcast television or the radio, it will be free of indecency, obscenity, and profanity.

On January 19, 2003, during a live broadcast of a network television awards show, a winning recipient celebrated with the use of a 4-letter expletive. As a result, a number of groups and individuals filed complaints with the Federal

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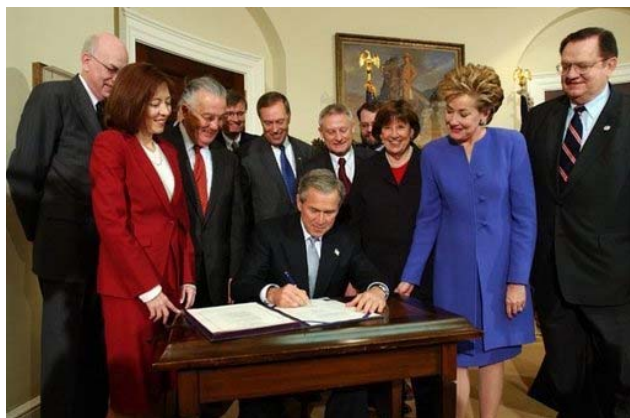
Communications Commission (FCC) indicating that the broadcast was obscene and indecent. However, the FCC's Enforcement Bureau ruled last October that the word uttered by the award winner was not indecent because of the context in which it was used.

The response of Fifth District residents to the FCC's decision was overwhelming. To be more exact, I have received over 500 emails conveying your strong disappointment. In response to your concerns, on March 3, 2004, the Energy and Commerce Committee passed 49 to 1, H.R. 3717, the Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act of 2004. I am an original cosponsor of this legislation, which if enacted into law, would increase the penalties ten-fold that the FCC may levy for obscene, indecent, or profane broadcasts.

Also, on January 28, 2004, the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, of which I am a member, conducted a hearing entitled, "Can you say that on TV?": An Examination of the FCC's Enforcement with Respect to Broadcast Indecency. I was glad to see the committee take serious action on this matter and used my opening statement as a means to express my serious concerns. Please visit my website: www.house.gov/gillmor to view my full statement.

Financial Literacy: Earning a Lifetime of Dividends

National Consumer Protection Week



Congressman Gillmor joined President Bush for the signing of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003

Protecting the rights and freedoms of consumers in Ohio and across the country is vital to our economy and the ability to do business on a day to day basis.

February 1-7, 2004 was designated National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW) to highlight protection and education efforts across the country. The subject of National Consumer Protection Week 2004 was financial literacy.

For more information on NCPW please visit <http://www.consumer.gov/ncpw>.

Late last year, President Bush signed into law the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003, which contained consumer protection language I authored and fought hard to see included. Thanks to this important legislation, consumers nationwide will have access to one free credit report annually from each of the "Big Three" Consumer Reporting Agencies. Also, as a result of this law and specifically the Gillmor provision, if consumers choose to be conscientious and check their credit more frequently or shop around for the best rate on car or other consumer loans; they can do so without fear that the number of inquiries on their credit will be misinterpreted and unknowingly negatively affect their credit score.

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While National Consumer Protection Week takes place only once a year, looking out for consumers is an everyday job. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) serves as our nation's consumer protection champion. The FTC works for consumers to prevent fraud, deception, and unfair business practices in the marketplace. Consumers can contact the FTC for free information on a wide range of issues. For more information on what the FTC can do, you can call toll-free at 1-877-FTC-HELP or visit online at <http://www.ftc.gov>. In addition, I have included a variety of consumer protection links and information on my webpage, available at <http://www.house.gov/gillmor>.

Environmental Concerns: Perchlorate, a Hidden Danger?



In late February, as Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials, I requested that the General Accounting Office (GAO) undertake a broad study of perchlorate contamination.

Perchlorate is an ingredient in rocket fuel that is used as an accelerant in many different forms of military ordinances. In its powder form, perchlorate can dissolve possibly into ground water supplies bringing rise to many environmental issues. I am concerned that

adequate studies have not yet been conducted on several aspects of perchlorate contamination at federal and private sites operated by entities such as NASA, DOD contractors, as well as companies involved in the manufacturing and use of the chemical. In general, little is known regarding the extent of perchlorate contamination, what is being done by such firms to address it, and most importantly the health risks resulting from exposure to perchlorate through drinking water and other sources.

Financial Services: The Rights of the American Shareholder



On February 11, I was honored to receive the American Shareholders Association "Friend of the Shareholder Award" for my strong record of protecting shareholders. Throughout the 108th Congress, I have continued to support pro-growth and pro-investor legislation to help boost investor confidence and shareholder value for Ohio's shareholders.

In fact, during the House Financial Services Committee's consideration on Wednesday, February 25th of H.R. 2179, the Securities Fraud and Deterrence and Investor Restitution

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Act, I sponsored an amendment, that was unanimously approved, reforming corporate governance of mutual funds by placing the responsibility on mutual fund management companies and underwriters to inform the mutual fund board of directors of any business practices of those management companies that are not in the best interest of the funds investors.

Over the past two decades, the percentage of households in the United States invested in the stock market has grown from 32.5 to 49.5 percent, according to a recent survey published by the Investment Company Institute (www.ici.org) and the Securities Industry Association (www.sia.com). In Ohio alone, there are 3,916,000 shareholders with \$295.4 billion invested. Many of these Americans and families in the Fifth District of Ohio are invested through mutual funds and they depend on the safety of their funds to enjoy a secure retirement.

Given recent reports of widespread fraud in the mutual fund industry, our House Committee on Financial Services took serious action in passing H.R. 2179, to give the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) additional powers to investigate and deter fraud, levy and collect fines and disgorgement funds, and to provide a significant increase in funds available for return to injured investors.

President Bush Delivers State of the Union Address to Congress



On January 20, President George W. Bush delivered the annual State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress in Washington, DC. The State of the Union is a tradition established in the United States Constitution which states "The president shall from time to time give to Congress information of the State of the Union and recommend to their Consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient" (Article II, Section 3, United States Constitution).

President Bush delivered a powerful speech that set a positive, forward-looking tone that will allow our nation to continue to build upon the historic accomplishments of the past year. We are meeting our priorities at home and abroad, but there is much to be done to continue to make America more prosperous,

secure, and hopeful. Thanks to our strong leadership, the most recent economic indicators are showing tremendous growth. I support the President's proposal to make the tax cuts passed by Congress permanent, as well as initiatives to help Americans afford quality health care. Additionally, we must stay the course on creating jobs by investing more in the workforce improving our domestic manufacturing climate.

I also support the President's commitment to fighting the War on Terror. We must continue to support our men and women in the armed forces, and provide them with the resources they need to combat ongoing threats. We need to do all that we can to protect our homeland.

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While I may not agree with the President on every issue, he has the right plan and vision and has set a positive tone for our great nation. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to make our nation a better place to live and work.

Focus on Ohio: Three Area Fire Departments Secure FEMA Grants



In February, I was pleased to announce that three Fifth District Fire Departments: Jerry City, Middleton Township, and Polk Jackson Perry were approved for \$14,951, \$117,270, and \$40,455 respectively in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grants. These funds, made available by Congress, will be used to increase the effectiveness of fire fighting operations,

fire fighter health and safety programs, new fire apparatus, EMS programs, and Fire Prevention and Safety Programs.

As recent history has shown us, America's fire departments are the first responders in almost all emergencies. These additional funds will greatly assist in improving the safety of these men and women and the Fire and EMS services they provide to the residents of Ohio's Fifth District.

March Casework Onsites



One of my goals as Congressman is to make sure that casework services are readily available to all of constituents. Unfortunately, the size of our sixteen county district makes travel to my Defiance, Tiffin, or Norwalk offices prohibitive for many. In order to ensure that my staff is accessible to all my constituents, I have scheduled casework onsite in Fulton and Williams County as follows:

Thursday, March 18, 2004
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Fulton County Farm Bureau Office
362 Main Street
Pettisville, Ohio

Thursday, March 18, 2004
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Montpelier Chamber of Commerce
410 West Main Street
Montpelier, Ohio

If you are in the area, I encourage you to stop by and my staff will be happy to assist you with any problems you are having with the federal government.

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March Service Academy Information Nights



One of my most important responsibilities as the Fifth District of Ohio's Representative in the U.S. Congress is nominating young men and women from our district for admission to our nation's service academies. Admission to one of the service academies is a two-tiered process. First, the candidate must meet the minimum standards for admission set by the academy itself. These standards include, among

others, medical and scholastic qualifications. The second tier is the nomination process.

An individual must achieve both - meet the admissions requirements of the academy, as well as receive a nomination - in order to gain admission to the academy. This month I will be holding two informational sessions in area high schools to allow students to learn more regarding the congressional nomination process. The sessions are scheduled as follows:

Wednesday, March 17, 2004
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Fostoria High School
1001 Park Avenue
Fostoria, Ohio

Wednesday, March 24, 2004
700 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Wauseon High School
840 Parkview
Wauseon, Ohio

It is my goal to have as many young men and women from our district admitted as possible. The only way to accomplish that is to nominate high quality, committed candidates to each academy.

I strongly encourage all local students interested in the process to stop by and learn about this exciting opportunity. My Service Academy Liaison will be on hand to answer any questions you may have and introduce you to the nomination process. I would also direct any interested students to visit my webpage at <http://www.house.gov/gillmor/academy.htm> to learn more.

Contact Me

If you have any suggestions on topics you would like to see addressed in my monthly updates, require any additional information, or would like to inform me of your views on matters concerning the federal government, please contact me anytime in Washington, DC or in any of my Ohio offices.

If you wish to forward your questions or concerns via U.S. mail please address your correspondence to one of my Ohio offices as mail sent to the Longworth House Office Building in Washington is subject to a lengthy screening process and may not reach my office in a timely manner.